(12) UK Patent Application (19) GB (11) 2 412 541 (13) A

(43) Date of A Publication 28.09.2005

(21) Application No: 0403007.8

(22) Date of Filing: 11.02.2004

(51) INT CL[7]:
H04Q 7/36

(52) UK CL (Edition X):
H4L LRPCA LRRMD L213

(58) Field of Search:
UK CL (Edition W) H4L
INT CL[7] H04Q
Other: WPI, EPODOC, JAPIO, INSPEC

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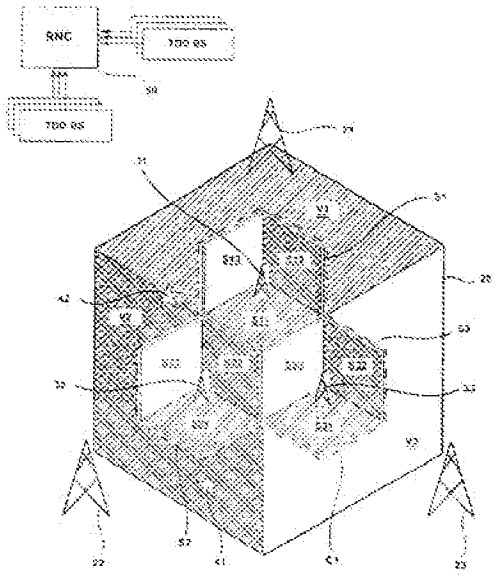
US 20020077152 A1
H Haas,"Capacity-coverage analysis of TDD and FDD mode in UMTS at 1920MHz" IEE Proc. Commun., Vol.149, No.1, Feb 2002, p51-57
H Haas,"A Capacity Investigation on UTRA-TDD Utilising Underused UTRA-FDD Uplink Resources", IEE Colloquium on UMTS Terminals and Software radio, Glasgow, UK, 26 April 1999 p 7/1-6

(54) Abstract Title: **Method of oerating TDD/virtual FDD hierarchical cellular telecommunication system**

(57) A method of constructing a micro- or pico-cells and a virtual macro-cell hierarchical cellular system structure comprising contiguous cells each containing a base station and sectors, wherein a virtual cell comprising three surrounding FDD macro-cell base stations over underlay the TDD micro- or pico-cells. In the proposed TDD/virtual FDD hierarchical cellular structure, a method of locating underlay cells' base station and macro-cells' base station to keep a least interference distance and a method of aligning the TDD micro-or pico-cells' sectors antenna beam direction with the FDD macro-cells' sectors beam direction are proposed, such that this system can suppress the additional inter-system interference and adjacent channel interference. The algorithm of utilising and borrowing the underused FDD macro-cells' resource and the mechanism of deciding the feasible resource borrowing region and smart antenna applicable region is proposed in such a way that the radio network controller and TDD micro- or pico-cell base stations can build up and decide the preference list of which sector, users, and resource to be served, which eventually resulting in the flexible and adaptive radio resource management of the RNC and achieving the optimal utilisation of the overall system resource.

FIG.2



At least one drawing originally filed was informal and the print reproduced here is taken from a later filed formal copy.

This print takes account of replacement documents submitted after the date of filing to enable the application to comply

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FIG. 1

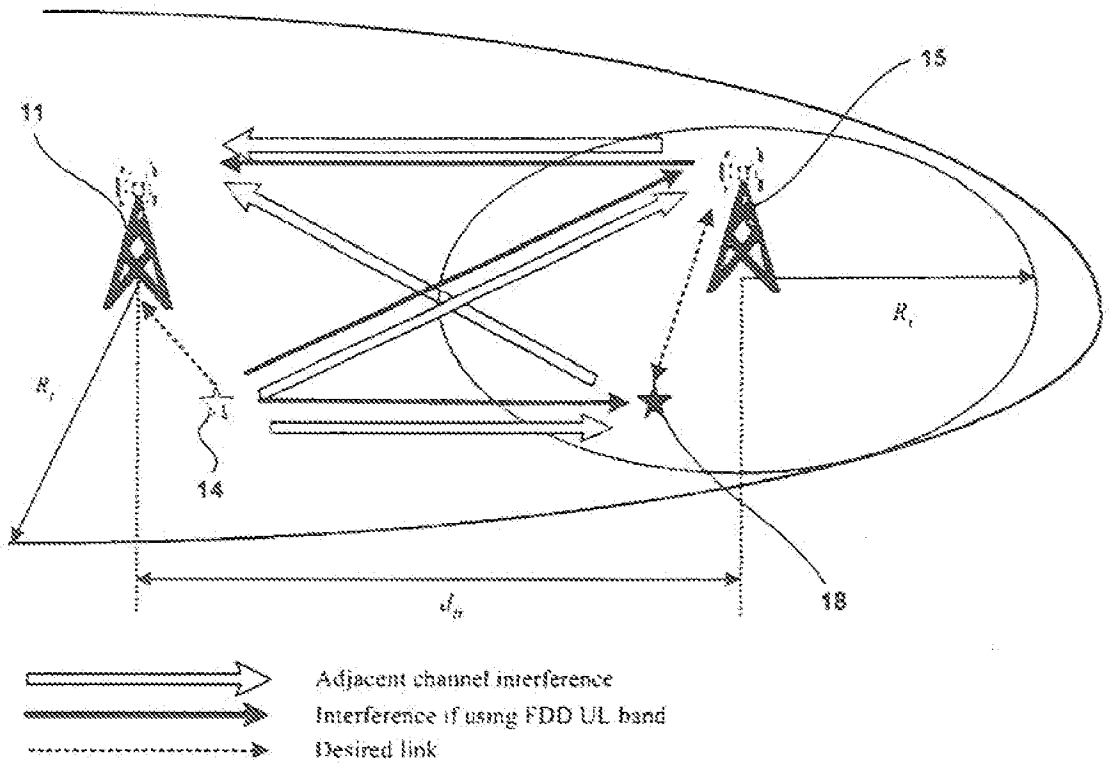

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FIG.2

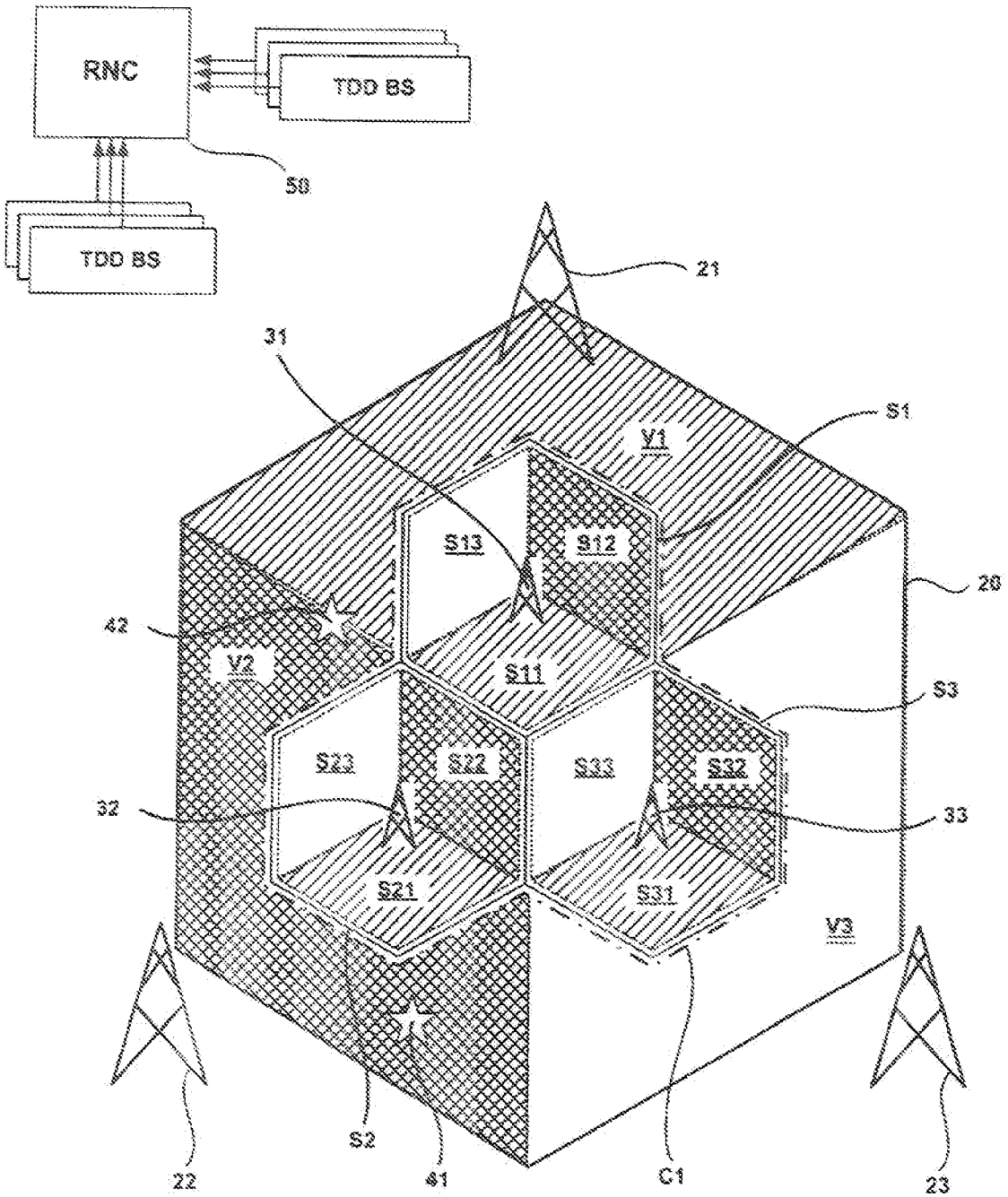
RNC
TDD BS
50
TDD BS
21
31
S1
V1
S13
S12
20
42
V2
S11
S3
S23
S22
S33
S32
32
33
S21
S31
V3
S2
22
41
C1
23

FIG. 3a

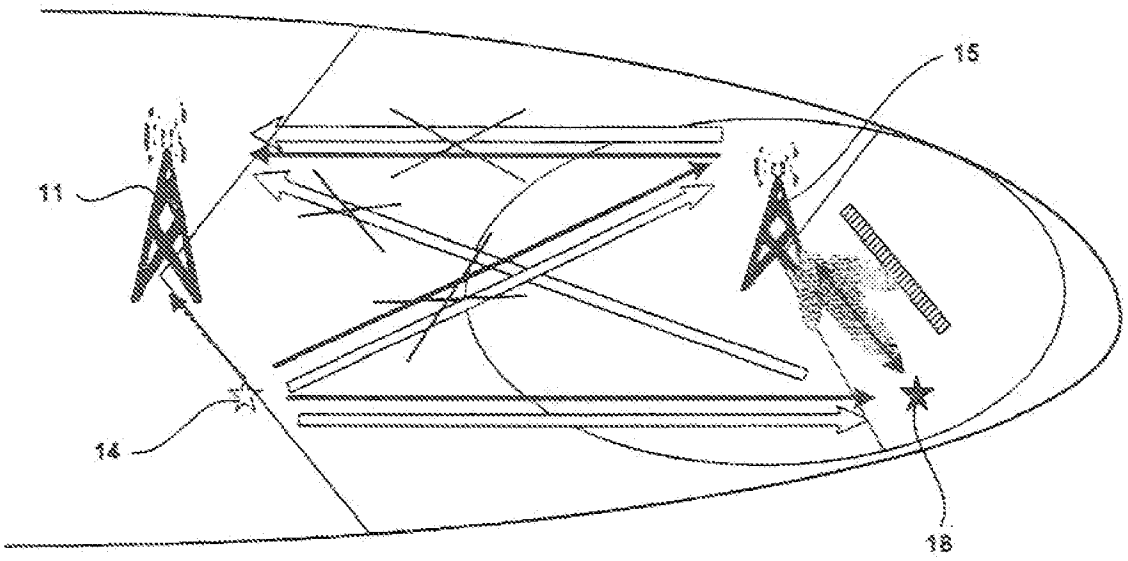

FIG. 3b

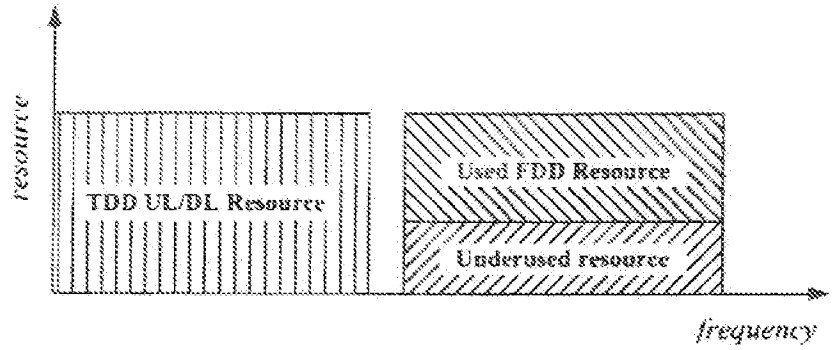

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FIG. 4

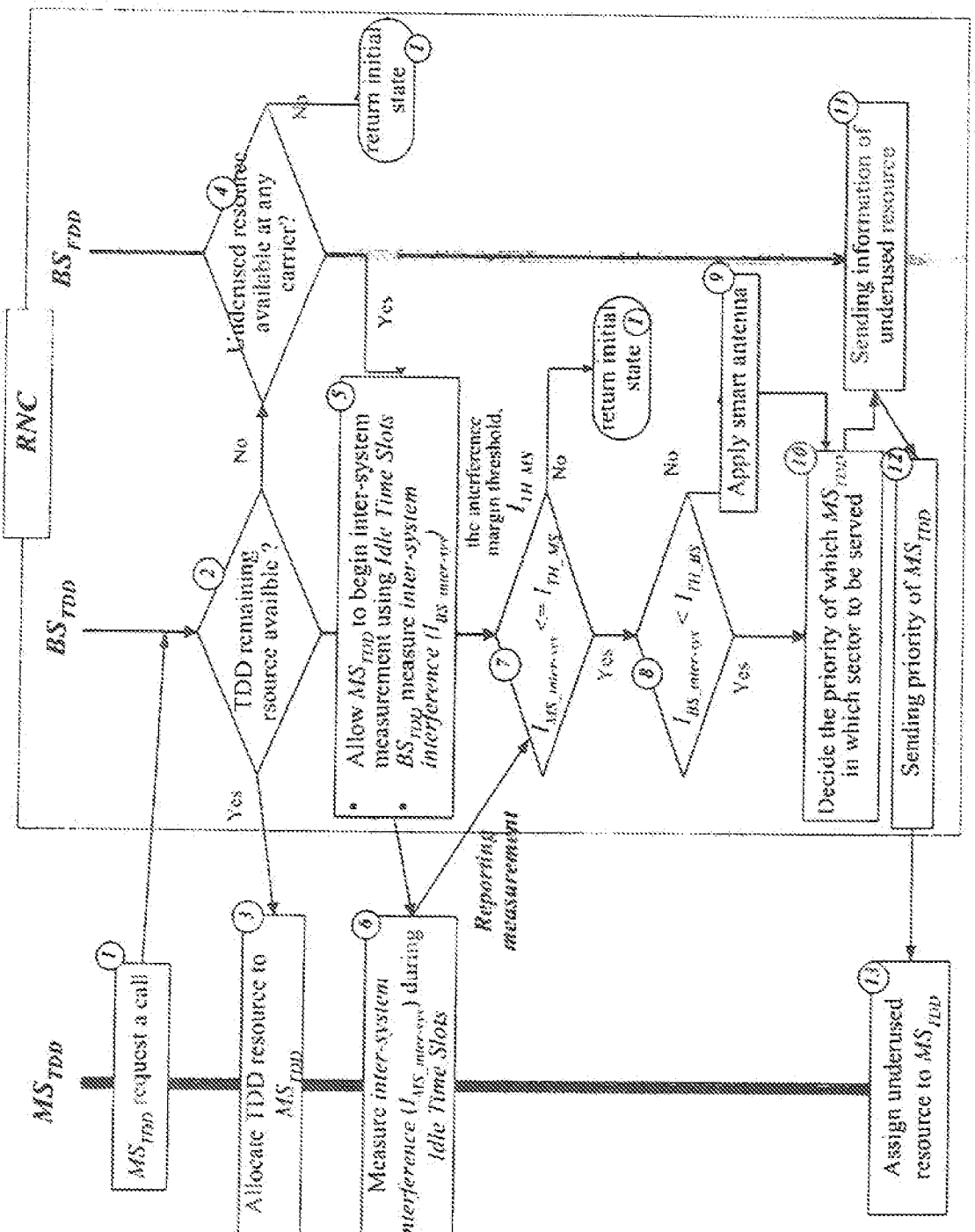

MS_{TDD}
MS_{TDD} request a call
1
RNC
BS_{TDD}
BS_{TDD}
2
TDD remaining resource available?
No
Yes
4
Unlicensed resource available at any carrier?
No
return initial state
1
Yes
Allocate TDD resource to MS_{TDD}
3
Measure inter-system interference ($I_{MS_inter\text{-}sys}$) during Idle Time Slots
6
Reporting measurement
5
Allow MS_{TDD} to begin inter-system measurement using Idle Time Slots
BS_{TDD} measure inter-system interference ($I_{BS_inter\text{-}sys}$)
the interference margin threshold, I_{TH_MS}
7
$I_{MS_inter\text{-}sys} <= I_{TH_MS}$
No
return initial state
1
Yes
8
$I_{BS_inter\text{-}sys} < I_{TH_BS}$
No
Apply smart antenna
9
Yes
Decide the priority of which MS_{TDD} in which sector to be served
10
Sending priority of MS_{TDD}
12
Sending information of underused resource
11
Assign underused resource to MS_{TDD}
13

FIG.5

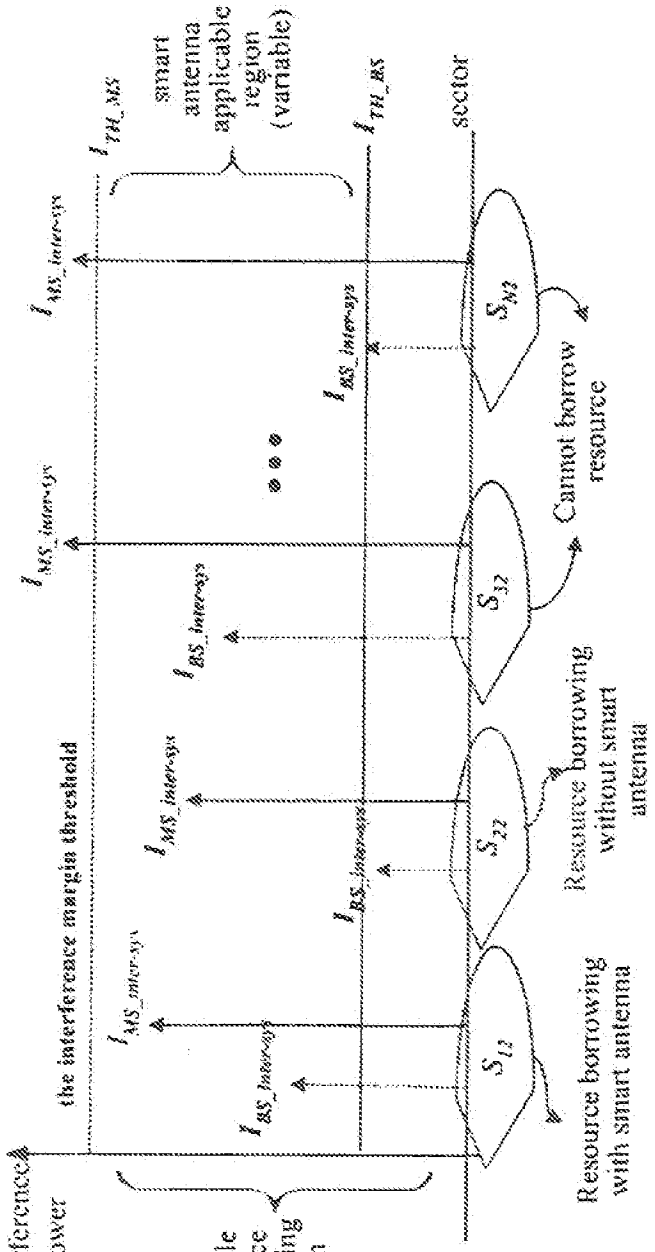
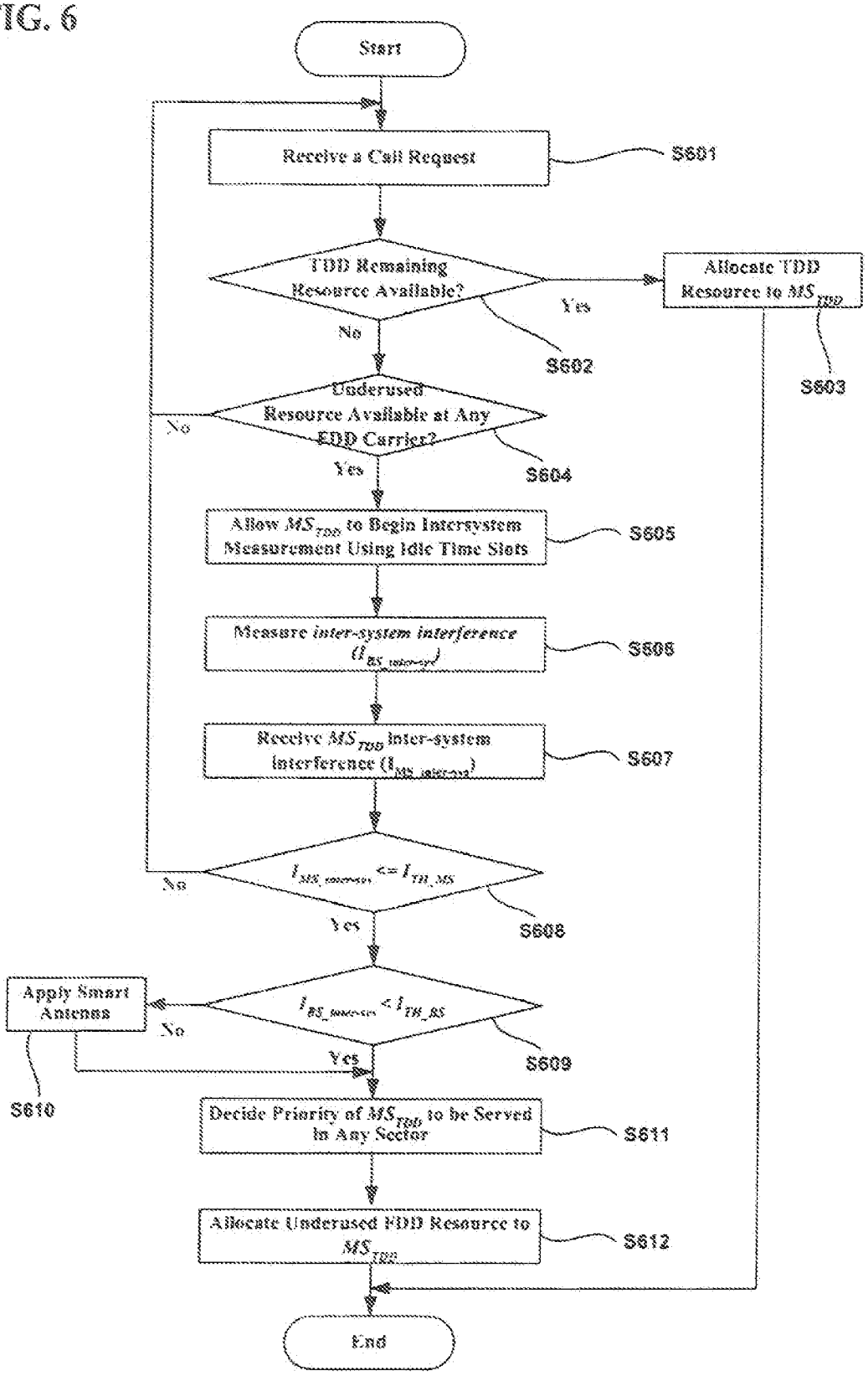

Interference Power
the interference margin threshold
Feasible resource borrowing region
smart antenna applicable region (variable)
sector
I_{TH_MS}
I_{TH_BS}
$I_{MS_inter-sys}$
$I_{BS_inter-sys}$
S_{12}
S_{22}
S_{32}
Resource borrowing with smart antenna
Resource borrowing without smart antenna
Cannot borrow resource

FIG. 6


Start
Receive a Call Request
S601
TDD Remaining Resource Available?
Yes
No
S602
Allocate TDD Resource to MS_{TDD}
S603
Underused Resource Available at Any FDD Carrier?
No
Yes
S604
Allow MS_{TDD} to Begin Intersystem Measurement Using Idle Time Slots
S605
Measure inter-system interference ($I_{BS_inter-sys}$)
S606
Receive MS_{TDD} inter-system interference ($I_{MS_inter-sys}$)
S607
$I_{MS_inter-sys} <= I_{TH_MS}$
No
Yes
S608
Apply Smart Antenna
$I_{BS_inter-sys} < I_{TH_BS}$
No
Yes
S609
S610
Decide Priority of MS_{TDD} to be Served in Any Sector
S611
Allocate Underused FDD Resource to MS_{TDD}
S612
End

METHOD OF OPERATING TDD/VIRTUAL FDD HIERARCHICAL CELLULAR TELECOMMUNICATION SYSTEM

The present invention relates to a method of operating a time division duplexing/virtual frequency division duplexing (TDD/virtual FDD) hierarchical cellular system in the context of a cell and sector deployment technique. In particular, though not exclusively, the present invention relates to a method of an unused resource borrowing mechanism and operation in such a network.

Most operators have been allocated two or more (FDD) carriers in the recent Universal Mobile Telecommunications System (UMTS) frequency allocations. In principle, an allocation of one pair of FDD carriers allows the operation of only a single network layer. Two paired carriers can cater for a two-layer structure, such as a macro-cell layer together with a micro-cell or pico-cell layer. In hot-spot areas highly loaded cells can be given extra capacity by adding another carrier to the cell, which would be more effective than increasing the base station transmission power, as described by Jaana Laiho, Achim Wacker, and Tomas Novosad, *ed.*, *Radio Network Planning and Optimisation for UMTS*, John Wiley & Sons, Ltd., 2002.

One of the promising possible approaches is the TDD and FDD hierarchical cellular structure, which consists of a FDD macro-cell layer and a TDD micro-cell or pico-cell layer. In such a system, the TDD carrier is allocated for supporting hot-spot areas with highly asymmetric traffic with relatively low mobility. In general, the FDD cell and TDD cell use a different carrier in order to cope with inter-system interference. However, there still exists the adjacent channel interference (ACI) as a system performance degradation factor which is depicted in FIG. 1, as described by Harald Haas, Steve McLaughlin, and Gordon Povey, "The Effect of Interference Between the

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TDD and FDD Mode in UMTS at the Boundary of 1920 MHz," in proceedings of IEEE 6th Intern. Symp. On Spread-Spectrum Tech. & Appli., NJIT, NJ, USA, pp. 486-490, Sept. 6-8, 2000. In their work, it has been shown that the effect of interference from the TDD carrier to FDD uplink is more significant and the trade-off for the optimal BS locations.

Another proposal is the exploitation of underused radio spectrum of a cellular CDMA–FDD system (since one communication direction of an FDD interface will be underused) which is named *TDD/FDD underlay system* proposed by Harald Haas and Gordon Povey, "Apparatus, Method of and System for Improving Capacity in Communication Network," International Patent Application Number: PCT/GB99/02223, 25 July 1998 and by Harald Haas and Gordon Povey, "Capacity Analysis of A TDD Underlay Applicable to UMTS," in Proceeding of PIMR99, pp.167-171. In this idea, a co–existing TDD interface with an unpaired frequency spectrum utilises the underused FDD frequency band for additional connections, and the TDD is only considered to be operated in the FDD uplink band due to an anticipated channel asymmetry in favour of the downlink. The authors reported substantial capacity gains without a significant deterioration of the QoS and proposed strategies to cope with the additional interference caused by channel borrowing techniques; that is the TDD base station (BS) should ideally located to at a distance of about half the FDD cell radius.

Irrespective of the strategies adopted TDD/FDD underlay system still suffers ACI at the boundary of TDD and FDD uplink band and the additional interference caused by FDD uplink borrowing technique, since the TDD base station must use both frequency bands simultaneously in order to borrow underused FDD uplink resource. The interference scenario in such a system is illustrated in FIG. 1 where the TDD mobile

station (MS) 18 and TDD BS 15 suffer severe interference from the FDD MS 14 with high transmission power at FDD uplink, and vice versa the TDD BS 15 also interferes with the reception of the FDD BS 11. As shown in FIG. 1, the ACI types at the boundary of TDD and FDD carrier band are quite similar to that of TDD/FDD underlay system borrowing underused FDD uplink spectrum. For our investigation in this invention, these two interference types such as ACI and the additional interference are taken into account.

It is an aim of embodiments of the present invention to at least partly mitigate the above-mentioned problems.It is another aim of the present invention to reduce the additional interference in a TDD/FDD hierarchical underlay system, in particular in a sectored cellular system since the sectoriation method can achieve the capacity enhancement without additional carrier.

It is another aim of the present invention to maximize the overall system capacity in the context of efficient resource borrowing reflecting additional interference condition and underused resource.

According to a first aspect of the present invention there is provided a cellular communication system supporting at least two different duplexing schemes, comprising:

a plurality of mobile stations;

at least one fixed station communicating with the mobile stations using a first duplexing scheme, the first fixed station defining a macro cell; and

at least one second fixed station communicating with the mobile station using a second duplexing scheme, the second fixed station defining a micro or pico cell located inside a boundary of the macro cell.

Preferably the first duplexing scheme is a frequency division duplexing (FDD).

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Conveniently the second duplexing scheme is a time division duplexing (TDD).

Advantageously the macro cell is sectored at an azimuth angle so as to form a plurality of macro sectors each having an identical size.

Preferably the macro cell is sectored at the same azimuth angle with the macro cell so as to form as many micro sectors as the number of the macro sectors.

Conveniently the micro cell locates in one of the macro sectors.

Advantageously each macro or micro sector is identified by a unique sector code.

Preferably the mobile station located at the macro sector can borrow underused resources assigned for the macro sector of which azimuth is identical with that of the micro sector.

Conveniently the first and second fixed stations form sector beams using adaptive beamforming antennas for focusing on the mobile stations.

Advantageously the azimuth angle is 120 degrees.

According to a second aspect of the present invention there is provided a cellular communication system supporting at least two different duplexing schemes, comprising:

a plurality of mobile stations;

at least three first fixed stations communicating with the mobile stations using a first-duplexing scheme, the first fixed stations defining respective macro cells that are contiguous and a virtual cell; and

a micro or pico cell cluster including at least one second fixed station communicating with the mobile stations using a second-duplexing scheme, the second fixed station defining a micro or pico cell located in the virtual cell.

Preferably each macro cell is sectored so as to form three macro sectors having respective sector beams directed form the first fixed station.

Conveniently the micro cell is sectored so as to form three micro sectors having respective sector beams directed from the second fixed station at different angles.

Advantageously the micro cell is sectored so as to form three micro sectors having respective sector beams directed from the second fixed station at different angles.

Preferably the macro and micro sectors are distinguished from each other by sector specific-codes.

Conveniently the virtual cell is formed with three macro sectors of which sector beams are directed from the different first fixed stations at different angles.

Advantageously the sector beam of each macro sector has a main lobe in parallel with a main lobe of any of the micro sectors.

Preferably the micro cell cluster is located at a center of the virtual cell.

Conveniently the mobile stations located at the micro sector can borrow underused resources assigned for the macro sector having identical main lobe direction in the virtual cell.

Advantageously the first and second fixed stations form the sector beams using adaptive beamforming antennas for focusing on the mobile terminals.

According to a third aspect of the present invention there is provided a cellular communication system supporting both a time division duplexing (TDD) scheme and a frequency division duplexing (FDD) scheme, comprising;

a plurality of mobile stations;

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at least three first fixed stations communicating with the mobile station based on the FDD scheme, the first fixed station defining respective macro cells that are contiguous and a virtual cell; and

a cluster including at least one second fixed station communicating with the mobile stations based on the TDD scheme, the second fixed station defining a micro or pico cell in the virtual cell.

Preferably the cluster locates coaxially with the virtual cell.

Conveniently each macro cell is sectored at azimuth angles so as to form three macro sectors covered by respective sector beams directed from the first fixed station.

Advantageously each micro cell is sectored at the azimuth angles as for the macro sector so as to form three micro sectors covered by respective sector beams directed from the second fixed station.

Preferably the virtual cell is formed with three macro sectors belonged to the different macro cells formed at different azimuth angles.

Conveniently the mobile station located at the micro sector can borrow underused resources assigned for the macro sector of which azimuth angle is identical with that of the micro sector.

Advantageously the first and second fixed stations form the sector beams using adaptive beamforming antennas for focusing on the mobile station.

According to a fourth aspect of the present invention there is provided a method for constructing cellular communication system supporting communications between fixed stations and mobile stations based on both a frequency division duplexing (FDD) and a time division duplexing (TDD) schemes, comprising:

forming at least three contiguous macro cells defined by respective FDD-based fixed stations;

forming at least one cluster including at least one micro or pico cell defined by a TDD-based fixed station; and

forming a virtual cell surrounded by the FDD-based fixed stations.

Preferably the cluster locates coaxially with the virtual cell.

Conveniently each macro cell is sectored at azimuth angles so as to form three macro sectors covered by respective sector beams directed from the first fixed station.

Advantageously each micro cell is sectored at the azimuth angles for the macro sector so as to form three micro sectors covered by respective sector beams directed from the second fixed station.

Preferably the virtual cell is formed with three macro sectors belonged to the different macro cells formed at different azimuth angles.

Conveniently the mobile station located at the micro sector can borrow underused resources assigned for the macro sector of which azimuth angle is identical with that of the micro sector.

Advantageously the first and second fixed stations form the sector beams using adaptive beamforming antennas for focusing on the mobile stations.

According to a fifth aspect of the present invention there is provided a method for allocating radio resource in cellular communication system supporting communications between fixed stations and mobile stations based on both a frequency division duplexing (FDD) and a time division duplexing (TDD) scheme, comprising:

receiving, at a TDD fixed station, a call request from a TDD mobile station;

determining whether or not TDD resource is available;

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allocating the TDD resource to the TDD mobile station when the TDD resource is available;

borrowing resource from a FDD fixed station, when the TDD resource is not available; and

allocating the FDD resource to the TDD mobile station according to an priority of the TDD mobile station.

Preferably the borrowing resource further comprises:

determining whether or not underused FDD resource available at any FDD carrier;

determining whether or not to borrow underused FDD resource if the underused resource available;

determining a priority of the TDD mobile stations if it is determined to borrow the underused FDD resource.

Conveniently the borrowing resource further comprises determining whether or not to apply an adaptive beamforming for determining the priority of the TDD mobile station.

Advantageously the determining whether or not to borrow the underused FDD resource includes:

allowing the TDD mobile station to measure a first intersystem interference ($I_{MS_inter\text{-}sys}$);

comparing the first intersystem interference ($I_{MS_inter\text{-}sys}$) received from the TDD mobile station with a predetermined first interference margin threshold (I_{TH_MS}); and

determining to borrow the underused FDD resource when the first intersystem interference ($I_{MS_inter\text{-}sys}$) is less than or equal to the first interference margin threshold

(I_{TH_MS}). Preferably the first intersystem interference ($I_{MS_inter\text{-}sys}$) is from FDD mobile stations to the TDD mobile station.

Conveniently the determining whether or not to apply the adaptive beamforming includes:

measuring at the TDD fixed station a second inter system interference ($I_{BS_inter\text{-}sys}$);

comparing the second inter-system interference ($I_{BS_inter\text{-}sys}$)with a second interference margin threshold (I_{TH_BS}); and

applying the adaptive beamforming when the second inter-system interference ($I_{BS_inter\text{-}sys}$) is not less than the second interference margin threshold (I_{TH_BS}).

Advantageously the second inter system interference ($I_{BS_inter\text{-}sys}$) is from FDD mobile stations to the TDD fixed station.

Embodiments of the present invention provide a cell and sector planning method and a resource borrowing method for TDD/virtual FDD underlay cellular system. The benefits of the proposed *TDD/virtual FDD hierarchical cellular system* model are twofold: to keep a reasonable distance between the TDD BS and the FDD BS in order to suppress interference in a schematic way and to fully utilise the surrounding three FDD BSs' resources as macro-diversity entities that may allow a flexible and easy resource borrowing mechanism.

Furthermore, the interference resolving technique of the present invention helps to align the TDD sector beam direction with the FDD one and use an adaptive beam forming method to avoid the additional interference caused by a FDD MS. From the radio resource borrowing mechanism perspective, the flexible share algorithm of

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underused FDD spectrum among carriers is another goal achieved by embodiments of this invention.

Preferably the present invention provides a cell and sector planning method and a resource borrowing method for TDD/virtual FDD underlay cellular system, and a flexible and easy resource borrowing mechanism. Furthermore, the interference resolving technique embodiments of this invention aligns the TDD sector beam direction with the FDD one and uses an adaptive beam forming method to avoid the additional interference caused by a FDD MS.

Preferably embodiments of the present invention provide a cellular communication system supporting both a time division duplexing (TDD) scheme and a frequency division duplexing (FDD) scheme which comprises a plurality of mobile stations, at least three first fixed stations communicating with the mobile station based on the FDD scheme, the first fixed station defining respective macro cells that are contiguous and a virtual cell, a cluster including at least one second fixed station communicating with the mobile stations based on the TDD scheme, the second fixed station defining a micro cell in the virtual cell.

Advantageously embodiments of the present invention provide a method for constructing cellular communication system supporting communications between fixed stations and mobile stations based on both a frequency division duplexing (FDD) and a time division duplexing (TDD) schemes which comprises forming at least three contiguous macro cells defined by respective FDD-based fixed stations, forming at least one cluster including at least one micro cell defined by a TDD-based fixed station, and forming a virtual cell surrounded by the FDD-based fixed stations.

Conveniently embodiments of the present invention provide a method for allocating radio resource in cellular communication system supporting communications between fixed stations and mobile stations based on both a frequency division duplexing (FDD) and a time division duplexing (TDD) schemes which comprises receiving, at a TDD fixed station, a call request from a TDD mobile station, determining whether or not TDD resource is available, allocating the TDD resource to the TDD mobile station when the TDD resource is available, borrowing resource from a FDD fixed station, when the TDD resource is not available, and allocating the FDD resource to the TDD mobile station according to an priority of the TDD mobile station.

The accompanying drawings, which are included to provide a further understanding of the invention and are incorporated in and constitute a part of this application, illustrate embodiment(s) of the invention by way of example only and together with the description serve to explain the principle of the invention. In the drawings;

FIG.1 is a schematic view illustrating the inter-system interference in a conventional FDD/TDD hierarchical cellular system.

FIG.2 is a conceptual view illustrating a TDD/virtual FDD hierarchical system according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

FIG.3a is a schematic view illustrating mitigation of the inter-system interferences in the TDD/virtual FDD hierarchical system according to the preferred embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 3b is a diagram illustrating how the underused FDD resource is borrowed to TDD system.

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FIG. 4 is a flowchart illustrating the mechanism of resource borrowing from underused FDD carriers according to the preferred embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 5 is a conceptual view illustrating possible interference power level perceived by TDD BSs and MSs in a specific sector of concern for the TDD/virtual FDD hierarchical system according to the preferred embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 6 is a flow chart illustrating how to allocate resource in the TDD/virtual FDD hierarchical cellular system according to the preferred embodiment of the present invention.

The idea of TDD/virtual FDD hierarchical system

The TDD/virtual FDD hierarchical cellular system model according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention achieves a twofold gain. Firstly, it can keep a reasonable distance between the TDD BS and the FDD BS to suppress the ACI and the additional interference whether borrowing underused other spectrum or not. Secondly, it can fully utilise three surrounding FDD BSs' resources as macro-diversity entities so that a flexible and easy resource borrowing mechanism could be used. The TDD/virtual FDD hierarchical cellular system model according to the preferred embodiment of the present invention is depicted in FIG. 2, and the mitigated interference scenario after rolling out such a system is depicted at FIG. 3a and FIG. 3b. In the preferred embodiment of the present invention each cell is sectorized into 3 sectors for explanation convenience.

As illustrated in FIG. 2, TDD cells cover pico- or micro-cell layer and FDD cells cover macro-cell layer.

Three adjacent FDD BSs 21, 22, and 23 define respective macro cells and also define a virtual cell 20 that are consisted of adjacent macro sectors V1, V2, and V3 belonged to the respective macro cells.

Also, the adjacent TDD BSs 31, 32, and 33 define respective micro cells S1, S2, and S3 so as to form a micro cell cluster C1.

The micro cell S1 is sectorized so as to form three micro sectors S11, S12, and S13, the micro cell S2 is sectorized into three micro sectors S21, S22, and S23, and the micro cell S3 is of micro sectors S31, S32, and S33.

The micro cell cluster C1 is located at the center of the virtual cell 20, i.e., at the boundary of the macro cells.

In this structure, TDD carrier is allocated for covering hot-spot areas supporting highly asymmetric traffic with relatively low mobility. Following the investigation of TDD/FDD underlay, as described by Harald Haas and Gordon Povey, "Capacity Analysis of A TDD Underlay Applicable to UMTS," in Proceeding of PIMR99, pp.167-171, the TDD BS should ideally located to at a distance of about half the FDD cell radius. Thus, it is reasonable that three TDD cells cluster are located at FDD macro-cell boundary as in FIG. 2, since FDD macro-cell BS covers the centre zone close to BS by transmitting higher BS power level. Note that this location is dependent on the TDD and FDD cell sizes. In general, the sectorisation technique is used to obtain the frequency reuse efficiency in cellular communication systems, resulting in capacity increase of the cell by dividing one cell into several sectors. Thus, with this principle, the sectored TDD and FDD hierarchical cellular system can guarantee capacity enhancement.

In FIG. 2, we consider just a three TDD cell cluster example, but more than three TDD cells can gather with much smaller radius. Thus, not every TDD BSs can keep a

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reasonable distance from the FDD BS, but if TDD cells cluster are located as like in FIG. 2.

An important idea of this invention is the method of how to align the sectored TDD cells' beams and the adaptive beam forming mechanism to avoid ACI if TDD band and FDD uplink band are contiguous and the additional interference caused by FDD MS when applying the underused resource borrowing technique.

Assuming that each FDD sector has its own sector-specific scrambling code to discriminate it from other sectors or other cells' sectors from its own sector, and each TDD sector also use its own sector-specific code. The TDD/virtual FDD hierarchical cell deployment method when is as follows:

TDD and virtual FDD sectors' beam direction and cell alignment

1) The main lobe direction of a FDD sector beam should be aligned parallel with a TDD sector beam so as to mitigate the interference from MS_{FDD} to TDD BS, e.g. second FDD BS's sector beam (V2) and second TDD BS's sector beam (S_{22}) in FIG. 2, and to avoid the interference from the TDD BS to the FDD BS due to the directivity of sector antenna's beam pattern. The sector antenna of second TDD BS (S_{22}) cannot radiate backward and receive the signal behind the back lobe of its beam. Thus, the interference caused by MS_{FDD} 41 located behind the back lobe of TDD sector S_{22} is no longer influenced. This rule can be applied to other TDD sectors S_{12} and S_{32}.

2) Since the two TDD sectors S_{21} and S_{23} are likely to experience the interference from MS_{FDD} 41 and cause interference to second FDD BS 22, the procedure 1) should be applied to only TDD sectors having the same direction of its sector main beam lobe. That is to say, the sectors S_{12}, S_{22}, and S_{32} should be aligned with second FDD BS2 22

in parallel. With similar reasoning, sectors S_{11}, S_{21}, and S_{31} are aligned with the first FDD BS 21, and S_{13}, S_{23}, and S_{33} with third FDD BS 23. In N multiple TDD cells within a virtual cell, each TDD sector S_{jx} ($j = 1,2,...,N$,$x \in \{1,2,3\}$) should be aligned with an FDD BS x. If the TDD cell is divided into M TDD sectors, each sector S_{ix} ($k = 1,2,...,M$) should be aligned with the corresponding FDD BS x depending on the set of sectors having the same beam direction with FDD BS x. All TDD sectors are divided into three sets of sectors of which total azimuth angle must be within 120 degree.

For contiguous TDD band and FDD uplink band

3) If the underused resource borrowing technique is not applied, this mechanism of procedure 1) and 2) can also be used for suppressing the ACI caused at the boundary of UTRA TDD band and FDD uplink band. Even if the TDD BS doesn't use the same frequency as the FDD uplink band, adjacent channel interference is incurred at the boundary of 1920 MHz in the UMTS system, as described by Harald Haas, Steve McLaughlin, and Gordon Povey, "The Effect of Interference Between the TDD and FDD Mode in UMTS at the Boundary of 1920 MHz," in proceedings of IEEE 6th Intern. Symp. On Spread-Spectrum Tech. & Appli., NJIT, NJ, USA, pp. 486-490, Sept. 6-8, 2000.

With this mechanism and structure, the ACI from the TDD BS to the FDD BS and from the TDD MS to the FDD BS is completely eliminated only if these two BSs' sector beam lobes have the same direction. Even though the other sectors cannot resolve these interferences completely, this mechanism can guarantee a considerable interference resolving effect. Moreover, a considerable amount of the interference from FDD MSs to TDD BS can be suppressed in a schematic way. This scenario is shown in

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FIG. 3a and FIG. 3b. As shown in FIG. 3a, the ACIs from TDD BS 15 and TDD MS 18 to the FDD BS and from FDD MS 14 to TDD BS are mitigated. Also, the additional interferences from the TDD BS 15 to FDD BS 11 and from FDD MS 14 to TDD BS 15 are mitigated. The additional interferences are caused by borrowing FDD UL resource, as shown in FIG. 3b where the underused FDD UL resource is borrowed to for TDD cell, The thick empty arrows indicates the ACI and crossed marks mitigated interference link due to this cell and sector alignment method in a TDD/virtual FDD hierarchical system.

For sharing and borrowing underused FDD uplink

4) When the underused resource borrowing technique is applied, this should be carefully coordinated along with a sector and cell alignment planning technique. Following procedure of the TDD and virtual FDD sectors' beam alignment method as set forth in procedure 1) and 2), the key proposed sharing and borrowing method is that MS_{TDD} in sector S_{1x} ($x \in \{1,2,3\}$) can borrow an underused FDD BS x's uplink resource if available. For example, MS_{TDD} located in sector S_{12}, S_{22}, and S_{32} can share and borrow the underused resource (i.e. code slots if the FDD system is using CDMA, time slot for TDMA, or composite time/code/frequency slot for TDD-OFDM-CDMA) of second FDD BS 22. With the similar reasoning, MS_{TDD} in sector S_{11}, S_{21}, and S_{31} can borrow the underused resource in the first FDD BS 21. If N multiple TDD cells within a virtual cell, MS_{TDD} users in each TDD sector S_{jx} ($j = 1,2,\ldots, N$,$x \in \{1,2,3\}$) can be allowed to borrow the underused resource in FDD BS x. For M TDD sectors in a TDD cell, S_{1k} ($k = 1,2,\ldots, M$), MS_{TDD} users can borrow and share the underused resource of FDD BS x which are decided by segmenting multiple sector into corresponding sectors such

as S_{1x} ($x = \mathrm{mod}(k,(M/3)) + 1$) within 120 degree total azimuth angle; e.g. for 6 sector with the same beam angle, S_{1k} ($k \in \{1,2\}$) is related to the first FDD BS 21. Therefore, the TDD/virtual FDD hierarchical cellular structure by its schematic feature can obtain a strong advantage in terms of fully exploiting sectorisation gain and suppressing additional interference caused by resource borrowing mechanism.

5) Another idea of the current invention is to use smart antenna (or adaptive beam forming) technique rather than use sectored antenna in such a way that smart antenna beam or adaptively formed beam focused on MS_{TDD} can further reduce the interference from MS_{FDD} to TDD BS, thanks to the selectivity of antenna beam. However, TDD users in a same sector can suffer the additional adjacent channel interference at the boundary of TDD band and FDD uplink band, which are incurred from some other users borrowing adjacent frequency spectrum in that some TDD users are using their own original TDD frequency band while other additional resource borrowers are using contiguous FDD uplink band. For this reason, it is necessary to apply either a smart antenna or an adaptive beam forming. However, if it is allowed to all the TDD users including resource borrowers in the same sector use the same time slot partitioning (i.e. the same time slot frame structure), the additional adjacent channel interference is no longer matter of concern. Thus, this method can enhance the interference suppressing feature of the proposed TDD/virtual FDD system.

The idea of underused resource borrowing algorithm with smart antenna in a TDD/virtual FDD hierarchical system

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Note that as shown in FIG. 2, three TDD BSs 31, 32, and 33 and corresponding three adjacent FDD BSs' sectors V1, V2, and V3 making up a virtual cell, are located such that it is easier to control the radio resource as well as the underused resource from the three FDD BSs 21, 22, and 23, which are connected to the same radio network controller (RNC) 50.

Therefore, if the underused spectrum is not limited to the adjacent carrier such as the FDD uplink band but extended to multi-carriers or extra carriers, this smart antenna or adaptive beam forming technique incorporated with the TDD/virtual FDD hierarchical cellular system structure can deliver a further degree of freedom to control the radio resource, such that in a hot-spot area (i.e. TDD area), narrow and directional beams can guarantee reliable links to TDD HSDPA users and release available resources from conventional bands or additional bands. It can be easily performed since three TDD BSs 31, 32, and 33 and corresponding three adjacent FDD BSs' sectors V1, V2, and V3 in the virtual cell 20 can lead the RNC 50 to have a more flexible resource management control.

Eventually, with this technique the overall system capacity can be optimised by exploiting underused frequency resource and distributing unbalanced load. Note that UMTS-FDD uplink having at least 3 carriers and an extra band around 2.5 GHz are considered to be used for the high speed data packet access (HSDPA) purpose. The mechanism of deciding which sectors and which TDD MS users are preferable to borrow the underused resource at any carrier is illustrated in FIG. 4, which is performed by measuring the inter-system interference and judging the available resource to be shared.

Once the MS_{TDD} requests in a specific sector the new call to the TDD BS, the TDD BS checks the remaining resource available and sends back information of

whether to use its own TDD resource or underused resource at other carriers. If the load status of the TDD BS's sector of interest is overloaded and needs extra resource, the TDD BS asks and checks the resource availability of the corresponding FDD BS (in real situation the RNC controls and performs this function), which are already decided by the sectors and cell alignment method as described above. If the sector of interest is S_{jx} $(j = 1,2,...,N$, $x \in \{1,2,3\}$, the FDD BS x is of concern.

The procedure blocks from 5 to 13 describe the interference measurement procedure, the information exchange flow, the resource borrowing and smart antenna application decision procedure and its criteria. The simple way of inter-system and inter-frequency measurement is to use the idle time slots without traffic when the MS_{TDD} is not an active state. Since the MS_{TDD} opens to the neighbouring MS_{FDD} s interfering signals when they transmitting at the same frequency band (e.g. the FDD uplink), he or she can measure the inter-system interference (called $I_{MS_inter\text{-}sys}$) during the idle time slots. In addition to this interference, another main interference source is from the MS_{FDD} s to the TDD BS, i.e. $I_{BS_inter\text{-}sys}$. These two types of interference are used for the resource borrowing and smart antenna application decision criteria at procedure 7 in FIG. 4. Here, the interference margin threshold (I_{TH_MS}) is defined by the amount of admissible interference level with which the TDD BS can decide whether to use the resource borrowing method or not, and this is perceived and collected at the TDD BS based on the reported measurement information from every MS_{TDD} as well as BS itself. This level is a time-varying random variable and dependent on the FDD MS users' distribution within a FDD sector and a TDD sector of interest. For an arbitrary user j borrowing a FDD resource and transmitting at the FDD uplink frequency, the bit energy to

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interference ratio $\varepsilon_j^d = (E_b / I_0)_j^d$ of the TDD downlink can be denoted as

$$\varepsilon_j^d = \frac{pg_j^d P_j^d}{\sum_{i=1}^{K_{FDD}} p_i^{FDDu} + \eta W} \geq \gamma_j^d \qquad (1)$$

where P_j^d is the received signal power from the desired TDD user j and p_i^{FDDu} is the received signal power from the FDD MS users of the FDD uplink, which is considered as a mutually independent random variable since the location of the FDD MS is relative to every TDD user. K_{FDD} is the total number of interfering FDD MS users with TDD MS users, η and W is the back ground thermal noise spectral density and the total bandwidth, respectively, and pg is the processing gain, defined as the ratio of the channel bandwidth to the information bit rate ($pg_j^d = W / R_j$) of the jth user at downlink. γ_j^d is the desired downlink $(E_b / I_0)_j^d$ for the user j. The admissible load condition can be written as

$$Z = \sum_{j=1}^{K_{TDD}^{add}} \varepsilon_j^d = \sum_{j=1}^{K_{TDD}^{add}} \frac{pg_j^d P_j^d}{\sum_{i=1}^{K_{FDD}} p_i^{FDDu} + \eta W} \leq \frac{W}{R_j}(1-\eta). \qquad (2)$$

If the inter-system interference experienced by the additional TDD MS users can be expressed as

$$I_{MS_inter-sys} = \sum_{i=1}^{K_{FDD}} p_i^{FDDu}. \qquad (3)$$

We can get the interference margin threshold as a value to meet the maximal load condition for all the additional TDD MS users, which can found as

$$Z_{max} = \sum_{j=1}^{K_{TDD}^{add}} \frac{pg_j^d P_j^d}{I_{m_MS} + \eta W} = \frac{W}{R_j}(1-\eta) \text{ and } \varepsilon_j^d \geq \gamma_j^d, for\ j = 1,2,\ldots, K_{TDD}^{add} \qquad (4)$$

and thus,

$$I_{TH_MS} = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^{K_{TDD}^{add}} P_j^d}{(1-\eta)} - \eta W \text{ ,for } j = 1,2,\ldots, K_{TDD}^{add}. \quad (5)$$

where K_{TDD}^{add} is the total number of TDD MS users requesting the underutilised resource of other carrier when the maximum capacity of TDD sector was reached saturated and there is not any available TDD resource. With similar reasoning, the inter-system interference perceived by the TDD BS sector and the interference threshold at the TDD BS can be derived as following

$$\varepsilon_j^u = \frac{pg_j^u P_j^u}{\sum_{i=1}^{K_{FDD}} p_i^{FDDu} + \eta W} \geq \gamma_j^u \Rightarrow Z_{\max}^u = \sum_{j=1}^{K_{TDD}^{add}} \frac{pg_j^u P_j^u}{I_{TH_BS} + \eta W} = \frac{W}{R_j}(1-\eta) \quad (6)$$

and thus,

$$I_{TH_BS} = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^{K_{TDD}^{add}} P_j^u}{(1-\eta)} - \eta W \text{ ,for } j = 1,2,\ldots, K_{TDD}^{add} \quad (7)$$

where all terms denotes the same entities except for the superscript *u* meaning the TDD uplink replacing with *d* in Equation from (1) to (5). Note that the BS interference threshold (I_{TH_BS}) is considerable smaller than the interference margin threshold (I_{TH_MS}), since the TDD BS suffers much less inter-system interference caused by FDD MS users due to the proposed hierarchical sectors alignment method. If it has still residual interference irrespective of this strategy that can be observed by periodical measuring the inter-system interference during the idle time slots, the TDD BS can decide whether to utilise the smart antenna technique or not, based on this BS interference threshold (I_{TH_BS}) criterion. This ensures the further interference suppressing and the reliable link to the resource borrowers.

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The possible inter-system interference power level perceived by the TDD BSs and MSs is depicted in FIG. 5. By collecting the interference measurement report from every MS_{TDD} corresponding its sector and cell, the resource borrowing and assigning algorithm as shown in FIG. 4 can deicide whether to use the resource borrowing technique with/without smart antenna technique (i.e. the procedure blocks from 6 to 10 in FIG. 4). Note that the mechanism of selecting the related sectors and the TDD BS are described set forth in procedure 1) and 2).

At the decision stages of procedure 7, if the $I_{MS_inter\text{-}sys}$ exceeds the interference margin threshold (I_{TH_MS}) level, the required $(E_b / I_0)_j^q$ cannot be guaranteed in that situation and thus, this call cannot be allowed to borrow the underused resource of the FDD carrier. In a similar manner, the BS interference threshold (I_{TH_BS}) indicates the maximum admissible interference to decide as to applying smart antenna technique since the TDD BS suffers the inter-system interference caused by mainly FDD MS users although the TDD/virtual FDD system structure of the current invention can reduce the inter-system interference. Thus, the smart antenna should be used if the perceived interference level is above I_{TH_BS} level, but it should be carefully controlled compared to the inter-system interference margin threshold (I_{TH_MS}) level. Thus, this eventually leads the RNC and the overall system to perform their function in a flexible and adaptive fashion. After deciding the preference list of which sector, users, and resource to be served, finally the BS assigns the resource to the requesting users.

FIG. 6 is a flowchart for illustrating how to allocate resource in the TDD/virtual FDD hierarchical cellular system according to the present invention.

Once a TDD BS in a specific sector receives a new call from a MS_{TDD} at step

S601, the TDD BS checks whether or not TDD remaining Resource is available at step S602. If it is determined that the remaining TDD resource is available, the TDD BS allocates TDD resource to the MS_{TDD} at step S603.

On the other hand, if it is determined that the remaining TDD resource is not available, the TDD BS checks where or not there is underused resource available at any FDD carrier at step S604. In order to determine the FDD resource availability, the TDD BS asks corresponding FDD BS for the underused resource and responsively receives information of underused resource from the BS FDD.

If there is underused resource available, the TDD BS allows MS_{TDD} to begin measuring a first inter-system interference ($I_{MS_inter\text{-}sys}$) caused MS_{FDD} s by using idle time slots at step S605 and measures by itself a second inter-system interference (. $I_{BS_inter\text{-}sys}$) from MS_{FDD} s to the TDD BS at step S606. Otherwise, the TDD BS returns the algorithm to the step S601.

Sequentially, the TDD BS receives the first inter-system interference ($I_{MS_inter\text{-}sys}$) measured by the MS_{TDD} at step S607 and compare the same with a predetermined first interference margin threshold (I_{TH_MS}) so as to determine whether or not the inter-system interference ($I_{MS_inter\text{-}sys}$) is less than or equal to the first interference margin threshold (I_{TH_MS}) at step S608.

If the first inter-system interference ($I_{MS_inter\text{-}sys}$) is neither less than nor equal to the first interference margin threshold (I_{TH_MS}), the TDD BS returns the algorithm to the step S601, and otherwise, the TDD BS compares the second inter-system interference ($I_{BS_inter\text{-}sys}$) with a predetermined second interference margin threshold (I_{TH_BS}) at step S609. As a result of the comparison, if the second inter-system interference ($I_{BS_inter\text{-}sys}$) is less than the second interference margin threshold (I_{TH_BS}), the TDD BS decides

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priority of the MS_{TDD} at step S611 and then allocate the underused FDD resource to the MS_{TDD} according to the assigned priority at step S612.

At step S609, if the second inter-system interference ($I_{BS_inter\text{-}sys}$) is not less than the second interference margin threshold (I_{TH_BS}), the TDD BS apply a smart antenna for deciding priority of the MS_{TDD}, at step S610.

As described above, the TDD/virtual FDD hierarchical cellular system structure of the invention, in combination with underused resource borrowing technique and smart antenna beam forming technique, is able to achieve less ACI and the additional inter-system interference by keeping a interference least distance between the TDD BS and the FDD BS and fully utilise three surrounding FDD BSs' resources with which allowing to utilise a flexible resource borrowing mechanism. Since in such a hierarchical cellular system suppressing the interference can be performed by aligning the sectored TDD cells' beams direction whether it uses the contiguous adjacent band of the boundary of the TDD band and the FDD uplink or the same frequency as the FDD uplink band. The further interference resolving improvement can be achieved, the micro- (or pico-) cell's overloaded traffic into a macro-cell can be distributed, and moreover, the overall hierarchical cellular system's capacity can be optimized.

The mechanism and the algorithm of underused resource borrowing with/without smart antenna technique proposed in this invention has been described, and it is capable of providing further adaptive and flexible way to cope with the unpredictable time-varying inter-system interference problem and thus, balancing the uneven traffic loads of the micro- (or pico-) cells.

With some modification of the interference scenarios the proposed TDD/virtual FDD hierarchical cellular structure of the invention can be applied to the TDD micro-cell

layer and the TDD macro-cell layer wherein using different frequency band, as well as to TDD micro- (or pico-) cell layer and FDD macro cell layer structure. In brief, the underutilised resource borrowing technique with the proposed interference resolving mechanism from macro-cell's resource pool can be applied to a generic multiple layer hierarchical cellular system wherein the macro-cell users cause the additional interference to the micro- (or pico-) cell users who borrowing the resource.

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CLAIMS:

1. A cellular communication system supporting at least two different duplexing schemes, comprising:

a plurality of mobile stations;

at least one fixed station communicating with the mobile stations using a first duplexing scheme, the first fixed station defining a macro cell; and

at least one second fixed station communicating with the mobile station using a second duplexing scheme, the second fixed station defining a micro or pico cell located inside a boundary of the macro cell.

2. A cellular communication system of claim 1, wherein the first duplexing scheme is a frequency division duplexing (FDD).

3. A cellular communication system of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the second duplexing scheme is a time division duplexing (TDD).

4. A cellular communication system of claim 1, wherein the macro cell is sectored at an azimuth angle so as to form a plurality of macro sectors each having an identical size.

5. A cellular communication system of claim 4, wherein the micro cell is sectored at the same azimuth angle with the macro cell so as to form as many micro sectors as the number of the macro sectors.

6. A cellular communication system of claim 5, wherein the micro cell locates in one of the macro sectors.

7. A cellular communication system of claim 6, wherein each macro or micro sector is identified by a unique sector code.

8. A cellular communication system of claim 7, wherein the mobile station located at the macro sector can borrow underused resources assigned for the macro sector of which azimuth is identical with that of the micro sector.

9. A cellular communication system of claim 8, wherein the first and second fixed stations form sector beams using adaptive beamforming antennas for focusing on the mobile stations.

10. A cellular communication system of claim 4, wherein the azimuth angle is 120 degree.

11. A cellular communication system supporting at least two different duplexing schemes, comprising:

a plurality of mobile stations;

at least three first fixed stations communicating with the mobile stations using a first-duplexing scheme, the first fixed stations defining respective macro cells that are contiguous and a virtual cell; and

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a micro or pico cell cluster including at least one second fixed station communicating with the mobile stations using a second-duplexing scheme, the second fixed station defining a micro or pico cell located in the virtual cell.

12. A cellular communication system of claim 11, wherein each macro cell is sectored so as to form three macro sectors having respective sector beams directed from the first fixed station at different angles.

13. A cellular communication system of claim 11 or 12, wherein the micro cell is sectored so as to form three micro sectors having respective sector beams directed from the second fixed station at different angles.

14. A cellular communication system of claim 12, wherein the micro cell is sectored so as to form three micro sectors having respective sector beams directed from the second fixed station at different angles.

15. A cellular communication system of claim 14, wherein the macro and micro sectors are distinguished from each other by sector specific-codes.

16. A cellular communication system of claim 14, wherein the virtual cell is formed with three macro sectors of which sector beams are directed from the different first fixed stations at different angles.

17. A cellular communication system of claim 16, wherein the sector beam of each macro sector has a main lobe in parallel with a main lobe of any of the micro sectors.

18. A cellular communication system of claim 17, wherein the micro cell cluster is located at a center of the virtual cell.

19. A cellular communication system of claim 18, wherein the mobile stations located at the micro sector can borrow underused resources assigned for the macro sector having identical main lobe direction in the virtual cell.

20. A cellular communication system of claim 19, wherein the first and second fixed stations form the sector beams using adaptive beamforming antennas for focusing on the mobile terminals.

21. A cellular communication system supporting both a time division duplexing (TDD) scheme and a frequency division duplexing (FDD) scheme, comprising;

a plurality of mobile stations;

at least three first fixed stations communicating with the mobile station based on the FDD scheme, the first fixed station defining respective macro cells that are contiguous and a virtual cell; and

a cluster including at least one second fixed station communicating with the mobile stations based on the TDD scheme, the second fixed station defining a micro or pico cell in the virtual cell.

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22. A cellular communication system of claim 21, wherein the cluster locates coaxially with the virtual cell.

23. A cellular communication system of claim 22, wherein each macro cell is sectored at azimuth angles so as to form three macro sectors covered by respective sector beams directed from the first fixed station.

24. A cellular communication system of claim 23, wherein each micro cell is sectored at the azimuth angles as for the macro sector so as to form three micro sectors covered by respective sector beams directed from the second fixed station.

25. A cellular communication system of claim 24, wherein the virtual cell is formed with three macro sectors belonged to the different macro cells formed at different azimuth angles.

26. A cellular communication system of claim 25, wherein the mobile station located at the micro sector can borrow underused resources assigned for the macro sector of which azimuth angle is identical with that of the micro sector.

27. A cellular communication system of claim 26, wherein the first and second fixed stations form the sector beams using adaptive beamforming antennas for focusing on the mobile stations.

28. A method for constructing cellular communication system supporting communications between fixed stations and mobile stations based on both a frequency division duplexing (FDD) and a time division duplexing (TDD) schemes, comprising:

forming at least three contiguous macro cells defined by respective FDD-based fixed stations;

forming at least one cluster including at least one micro or pico cell defined by a TDD-based fixed station; and

forming a virtual cell surrounded by the FDD-based fixed stations.

29. A method of claim 28, wherein the cluster locates coaxially with the virtual cell.

30. A method of claim 29, wherein each macro cell is sectored at azimuth angles so as to form three macro sectors covered by respective sector beams directed from the first fixed station.

31. A method of claim 30, wherein each micro cell is sectored at the azimuth angles as for the macro sector so as to form three micro sectors covered by respective sector beams directed from the second fixed station.

32. A method of claim 31, wherein the virtual cell is formed with three macro sectors belonged to the different macro cells formed at different azimuth angles.

33. A cellular communication system of claim 32, wherein the mobile station

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located at the micro sector can borrow underused resources assigned for the macro sector of which azimuth angle is identical with that of the micro sector.

34. A method of claim 33, wherein the first and second fixed stations form the sector beams using adaptive beamforming antennas for focusing on the mobile stations.

35. A method for allocating radio resource in cellular communication system supporting communications between fixed stations and mobile stations based on both a frequency division duplexing (FDD) and a time division duplexing (TDD) scheme, comprising:

receiving, at a TDD fixed station, a call request from a TDD mobile station;

determining whether or not TDD resource is available;

allocating the TDD resource to the TDD mobile station when the TDD resource is available;

borrowing resource from a FDD fixed station, when the TDD resource is not available; and

allocating the FDD resource to the TDD mobile station according to an priority of the TDD mobile station.

36. A method of claim 35, wherein the borrowing resource further comprises:

determining whether or not underused FDD resource available at any FDD carrier;

determining whether or not to borrow underused FDD resource if the underused resource available;

determining a priority of the TDD mobile station if it is determined to borrow the underused FDD resource.

37. A method of claim 36, wherein the borrowing resource further comprises determining whether or not to apply an adaptive beamforming for determining the priority of the TDD mobile station.

38. A method of claim 36, wherein the determining whether or not to borrow the underused FDD resource includes:

allowing the TDD mobile station to measure a first intersystem interference ($I_{MS_inter\text{-}sys}$);

comparing the first intersystem interference ($I_{MS_inter\text{-}sys}$) received from the TDD mobile station with a predetermined first interference margin threshold (I_{TH_MS}); and

determining to borrow the underused FDD resource when the first intersystem interference ($I_{MS_inter\text{-}sys}$) is less than or equal to the first interference margin threshold (I_{TH_MS}).

39. A method of claim 38, wherein the first intersystem interference ($I_{MS_inter\text{-}sys}$) is from FDD mobile stations to the TDD mobile station.

40. A method of claim 37, wherein the determining whether or not to apply the adaptive beamforming includes:

measuring at the TDD fixed station a second inter system interference ($I_{BS_inter\text{-}sys}$);

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comparing the second inter-system interference ($I_{BS_inter\text{-}sys}$)with a second interference margin threshold (I_{TH_BS}); and

applying the adaptive beamforming when the second inter-system interference ($I_{BS_inter\text{-}sys}$) is not less than the second interference margin threshold (I_{TH_BS}).

41. A method of claim 40, wherein the second inter system interference ($I_{BS_inter\text{-}sys}$) is from FDD mobile stations to the TDD fixed station.

42. Apparatus constructed an arranged substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

43. A method substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

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Application No:	GB0403007.8	**Examiner:**	Gareth Griffiths
Claims searched:	1 - 34	**Date of search:**	12 August 2004

Patents Act 1977: Search Report under Section 17

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Relevant to claims	Identity of document and passage or figure of particular relevance
Y	4, 11, 12, 21, 23, 28, 30	US5822698 B (TANG) fig.3
Y	4, 10	JP2000287253 A (MATSUSHITA) fig.4
Y	4, 10, 13, 14	US2002/0077152 A1 (JOHNSON) fig.6
X,Y	1-4, 10-14, 21, 23, 28, 30	H Haas,"Capacity-coverage analysis of TDD and FDD mode in UMTS at 1920MHz" IEE Proc. Commun., Vol.149, No.1, Feb 2002, p51-57
X,Y	1-3, 4, 10-14, 21, 23, 28, 30, 35	H Haas,"A Capacity Investigation on UTRA-TDD Utilising Underused UTRA-FDD Uplink Resources", IEE Colloquium on UMTS Terminals and Software radio, Glasgow, UK, 26 April 1999 p 7/1-6

Categories:

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
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